

Message Text

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21 11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SSC-01 /127 W

----- 062560

P R 240940Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8347

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 18404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, VS

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES

1. AT 8:00PM OCTOBER 23, VIETNAMESE RADIO ANNOUNCED LIST OF
CABINET CHANGES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

2. THE MIN OF ECONOMY, PHAM KIM NGOC, HAS BEEN NAMED COM-
MISSIONER GENERAL FOR PLANNING, A NEW OFFICE ESTABLISHED UNDER
THE PRIMIN. HE WILL HAVE THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER.
THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING IS ABOLISHED AND THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL
FOR PLANNING WILL TAKE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MIN OF PLANNING.

3. THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY IS RENAMED MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY AND WILL BE HEADED BY NGUYEN DUC CUONG, UNTIL NOW VICE
MIN FOR COMMERCE WITHIN THE MIN OF ECONOMY.

4. THE MIN OF COMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICE IS
ABOLISHED AND REINTEGRATED WITH THE MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS.
THE MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HEADED BY
MINISTER NHUONG.

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THE POST OF MIN OF AGRICULTURE GOES TO TON THAT TRINH,
AND THE MINISTRY IS RENAMED TO BE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT. THE NEW VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
WILL BE DR TRAN QUANG MINH, UNTIL NOW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
AGRICULTURE.

6. THE POST OF MIN OF FINANCE GOES TO HAU KIM NHAN,
UNTIL NOW ACTING VICE MIN OF DEFENSE.

7. THE FOLLOWING ARE LEAVING THE CABINET WITHOUT ANY KNOWN
NEW POSITIONS:

HA XUAN TRUNG, MIN OF FINANCE;
VU KHAC DUNG, VICE MIN OF FINANCE;
LE TUAN ANH, MIN OF PLANNING;
CAO VAN THAN, MIN OF AGRICULTURE; AND
TRAN VAN VIEN, MIN OF COMMUNICATIONS AND POST.

8. VICE MINISTERS FOR THE NEW MIN OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
AND THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED.

9. COMMENT: THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE IN GENERAL
THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME. THE MOST IMPORTANT
OF THEM APPEARS TO BE THE APPOINTMENT OF NGOC TO A
POSITION WHICH SHOULD GIVE HIM GENERAL LEADERSHIP OF ECONOMIC
POLICY AND PLANNING. THE CHANGE AT THE MIN OF AGRICULTURE
BRINGS BACK AN ABLE TECHNICIAN AND SHOULD BE FAVORABLE. THE
CHANGE AT THE MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOVES A MAN GENERALLY
REGARDED AS WEAK AND PLACES COMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES
UNDER STRONG LEADERSHIP. THE ONLY OFFSETTING LOSS APPEARS TO
BE THE CHANGE AT THE MIN OF FINANCE. THE NEW MINISTER
IS A RATHER UNKNOWN QUANTITY IN TERMS OF HIS POLICY VIEWS
AND THE DEPARTURE OF TRUNG AND DUNG REMOVES FROM OFFICE A STRONG AND
EXPERIENCED TEAM. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE THE CHANGES
FURTHER AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL A
NUMBER OF VACANCIES TO BE FILLED IN THE NEW ARRANGEMENT AND
BECAUSE THE REAL RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WILL BE CARRIED BY
NGOC AS COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR PLANNING ARE UNCLEAR.

10. THERE ARE ALSO VACANCIES AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEALTH
YET TO BE FILLED.

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